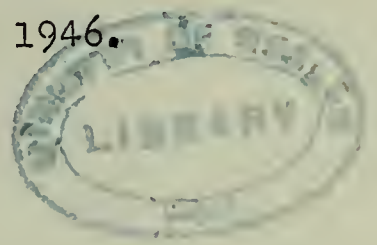


B O R O U G H O F P O N T E F R A C T

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1946.



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Pontefract.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a Report on the Health of the Borough during the year 1946. It is my twenty-fifth Annual Report and, on account of the abnormal circumstances prevailing, has been curtailed in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

The Report then is confined to essential matters, and, as in my Reports of 1939 - 1945, much of the statistical information normally given has been omitted. The Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies is complementary to this Report.

P A R T O N E

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the Borough: 4,865 acres

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population: 21,040

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946) according to
Rate Books: 5,643

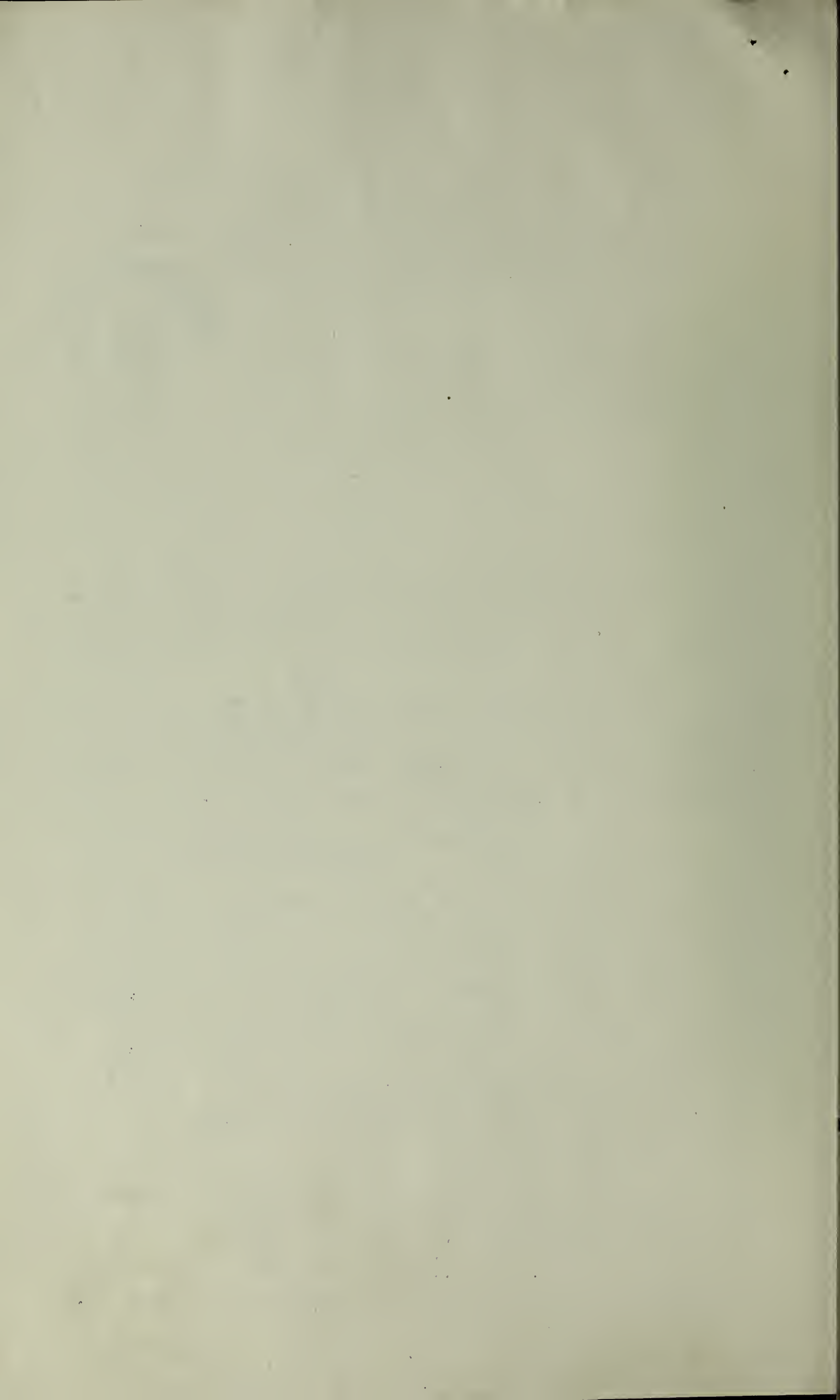
Rateable Value: £128,248 (1945: £124,347)

Sum represented by penny rate: £512 (1945: £492)

Vital Statistics -

Live Births:		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	204	229	433
Illegitimate	..	15	14	29
Total	..	219	243	462

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population: 22.0



Stillbirths:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ..	7	9	16
Illegitimate ..	3	1	4
Total ..	10	10	20

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 41.5
Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population: 0.95

Deaths:	Male	Female	Total
All age groups	117	109	226
Infants under 1 year:			
Legitimate	11	7	18
Illegitimate	3	0	3
Total	14	7	21
Maternal deaths		1	

Death rates:

General rate per 1,000 population: 10.7
All infants per 1,000 live births: 45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: 42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: 103
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births: 2.07

The principal causes of death are set out in the following table:

Table I.

Causes of death	Males	Female	Totals
Whooping cough	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	1	1
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	5	4	9
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	0	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	0	1	1
Influenza	1	0	1
Cancer	14	18	32
Diabetes	0	3	3
Inter-cranial vascular lesions	12	19	31
Heart disease	36	28	64
Bronchitis	11	4	15
Pneumonia	7	6	13
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	1	0	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	2	3
Other digestive diseases	3	6	9
Nephritis	1	6	7
Maternal causes	0	1	1
Premature birth	3	0	3
Congenital causes, etc.	3	3	6
Suicide	0	1	1
Road traffic accidents	4	1	5
Other violent causes	4	0	4
All other causes	10	4	14
Totals	117	109	226

The number of deaths registered during the year was 226, 17 more than in the previous year: this yields a death rate of 10.7 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, as against a figure of 10.6 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales is 11.5. The improvement in the local rate during the past 9 years is shown clearly by the following triennial groupings:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death rate</u>
1938 - 1940	13.1
1941 - 1943	12.2
1944 - 1946	10.8

Heart disease again provides the highest death rate for individual causes, 64 deaths having been attributed to such disease. This is an increase of 9 on last year's figure. Cancer was recorded as the cause of death in 32 cases, 4 more than in the previous year. Following closely, with 31 deaths, inter-cranial vascular lesions gave the third highest individual cause of death. There were only 11 deaths recorded in this group of diseases in 1945; this was an exceptionally low figure. In the quinquennial period 1935 - 1939 the mean annual figure was 17; the corresponding figure for the period 1940 - 1944 being 32.

Diseases of the respiratory system were responsible for 28 deaths, a reduction of 4 on last years figure. A reduction of 4 was also recorded in digestive diseases, the group total for the year under review being 13. Infective diseases caused 14 deaths, 2 less than in 1945, and 4 less than in 1944. 10 of these were classified to tuberculosis. Deaths from violent causes numbered 10, the corresponding figure for the previous year being 15.

Infant Mortality

In 1934 and 1944 the infant death rate was 38, and the lowest on record. The rate for 1946 is 45, which is the second lowest figure recorded. The number of deaths in 1944 was 18, the number this year being 21. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales is 43.

The steady improvement in the local rate over the past 25 years is shown in the following mean rates for quinquennial periods since 1921:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 live births</u>
1921 - 1925	105
1926 - 1930	86
1931 - 1935	67
1936 - 1940	63
1941 - 1945	60

These figures are more significant for comparative purposes than the annual figures.

The following Tables give causes of infant deaths during 1946 classified into age-groups, and months of incidence.

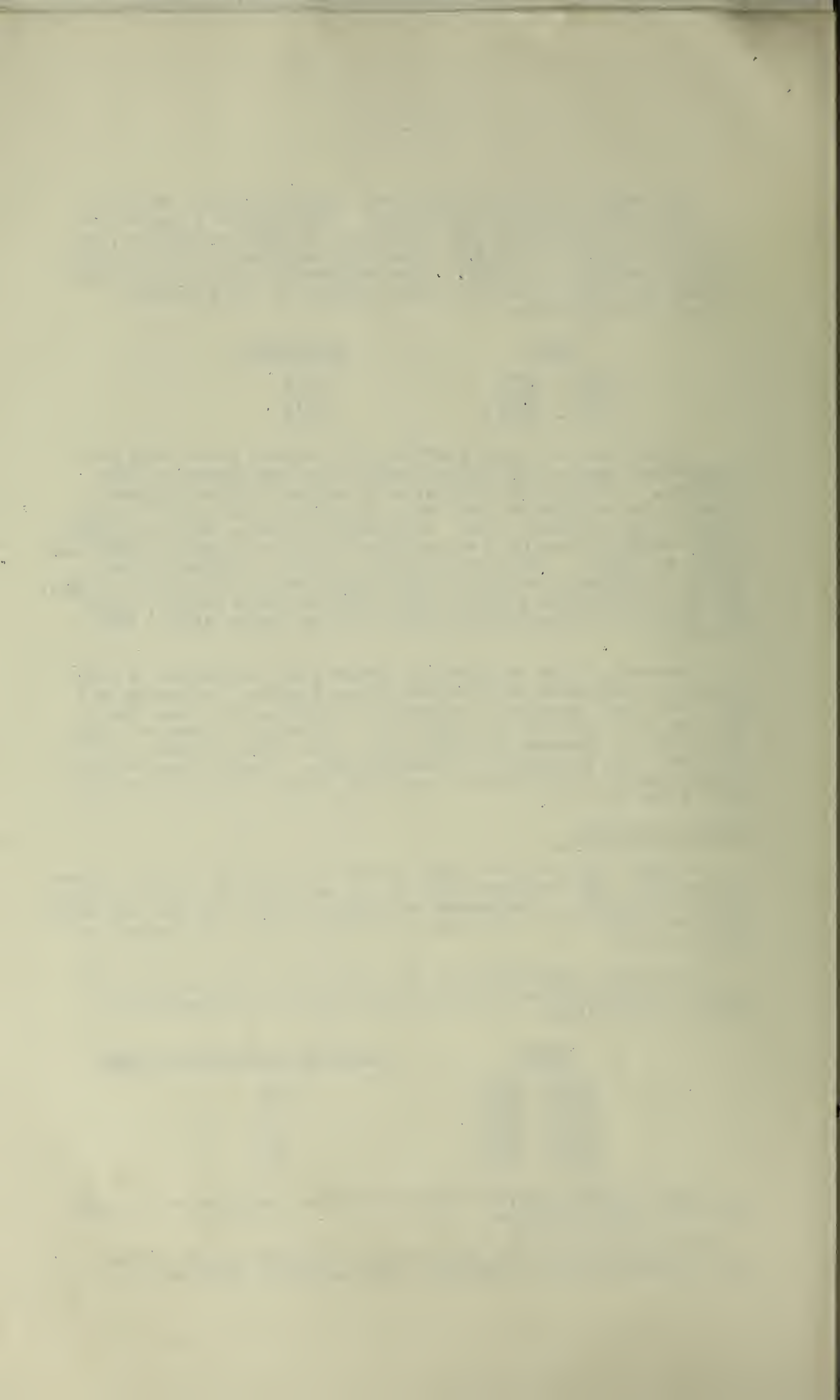
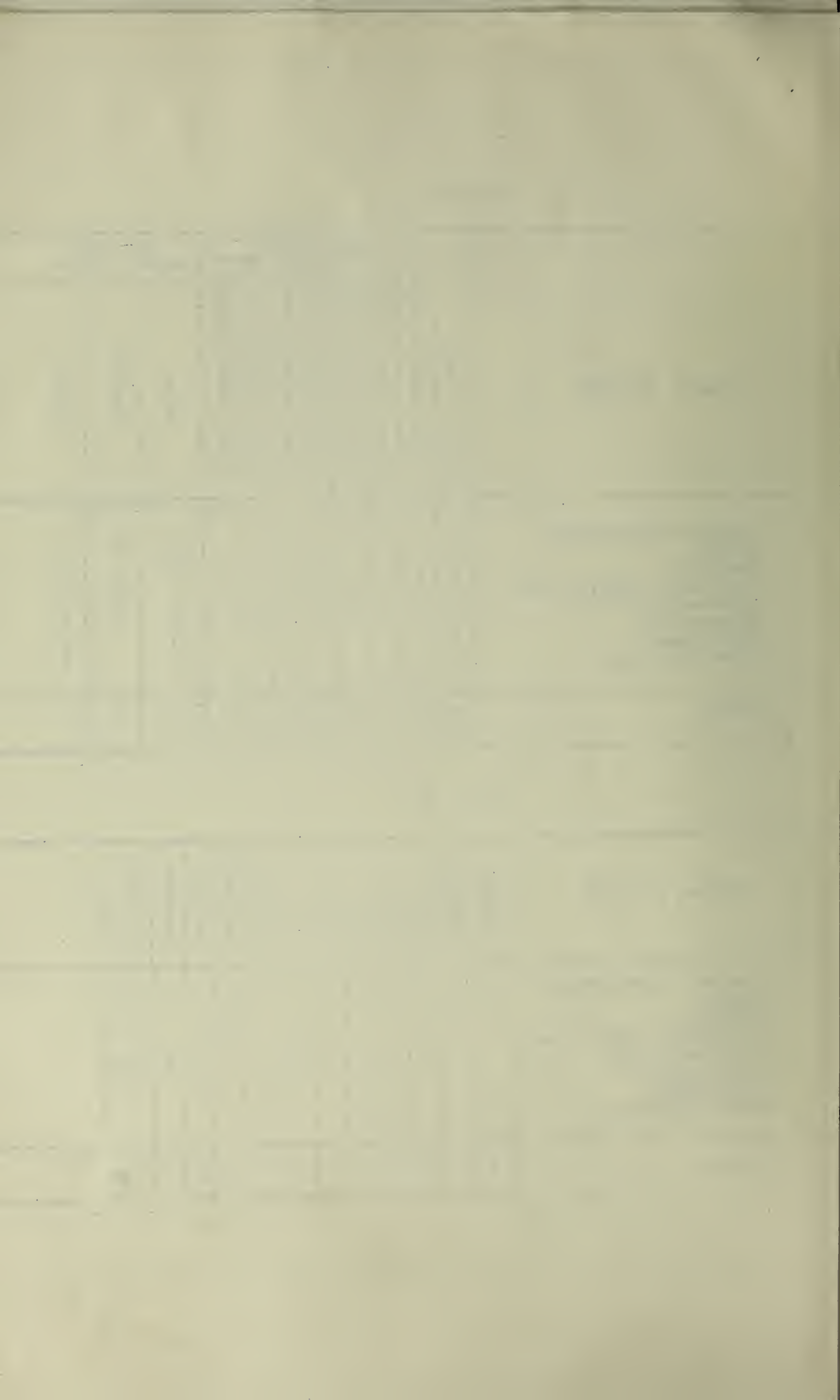


Table II

Causes of death	Age-groups								All ages under 1 year		
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Males	Females	Totals
Cerebral haemorrhage	2								1	1	2
Tetany							1		1		1
Pneumonia	2	1			2	3		1	5	4	9
Intestinal obstruction	1			1			1	1	1	1	2
Gastro-enteritis									1	2	3
Prematurity	3								3		3
Atelectasis	1								1		1
Erythroblastosis		1							1		1
Totals	9	2	-	1	2	3	2	2	13	8	21

Table III

Causes of death	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Cerebral haemorrhage					1							1	2
Tetany									1				1
Pneumonia	4		1				1		1	1		1	9
Intestinal obstruction					1					1			1
Gastro-enteritis							1				1		2
Prematurity										2		1	3
Atelectasis					1							1	2
Erythroblastosis					1								1
Totals	4		1		4		2		2	3	1	4	21



P A R T T W O

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Health Visiting

In November 1945 it was agreed by the Council that the Health Visiting Staff should consist of two whole-time visitors: prior to that date the equivalent of whole-time services devoted to health visiting and attendance at the Child Welfare Centre was $1\frac{1}{2}$ - one health visitor also acting as school nurse half-time. At the beginning of 1946 the Corporation had only one health visitor, the part-time officer having resigned early in 1945, and attempts made to obtain the services of a second qualified visitor were unsuccessful. In May 1946, therefore, a nurse (State Registered) was employed part-time to assist the Health Visitor. No health visiting is done by voluntary agencies. The number of visits paid by the Corporation's staff were as follows:

	<u>First Visits</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
To expectant mothers	160	367
To children under 1 year	504	2,930
To children of 1 to 5 years		4,369

The Welfare Centre

The premises at Headlands Road, centre of all Maternity and Child Welfare activities, are quite inadequate for the increasing numbers of people who attend the various clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics were held weekly, and attendances were as follows:-

Total number of children under five years of age who first attended at the Centre during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were :-

Under 1 year of age	424	
Over 1 year of age	11	
Total	435,	an increase of 25 on last year.

Total number of children under five years of age who attended at the Centre during the year, and who, at the end of the year were :-

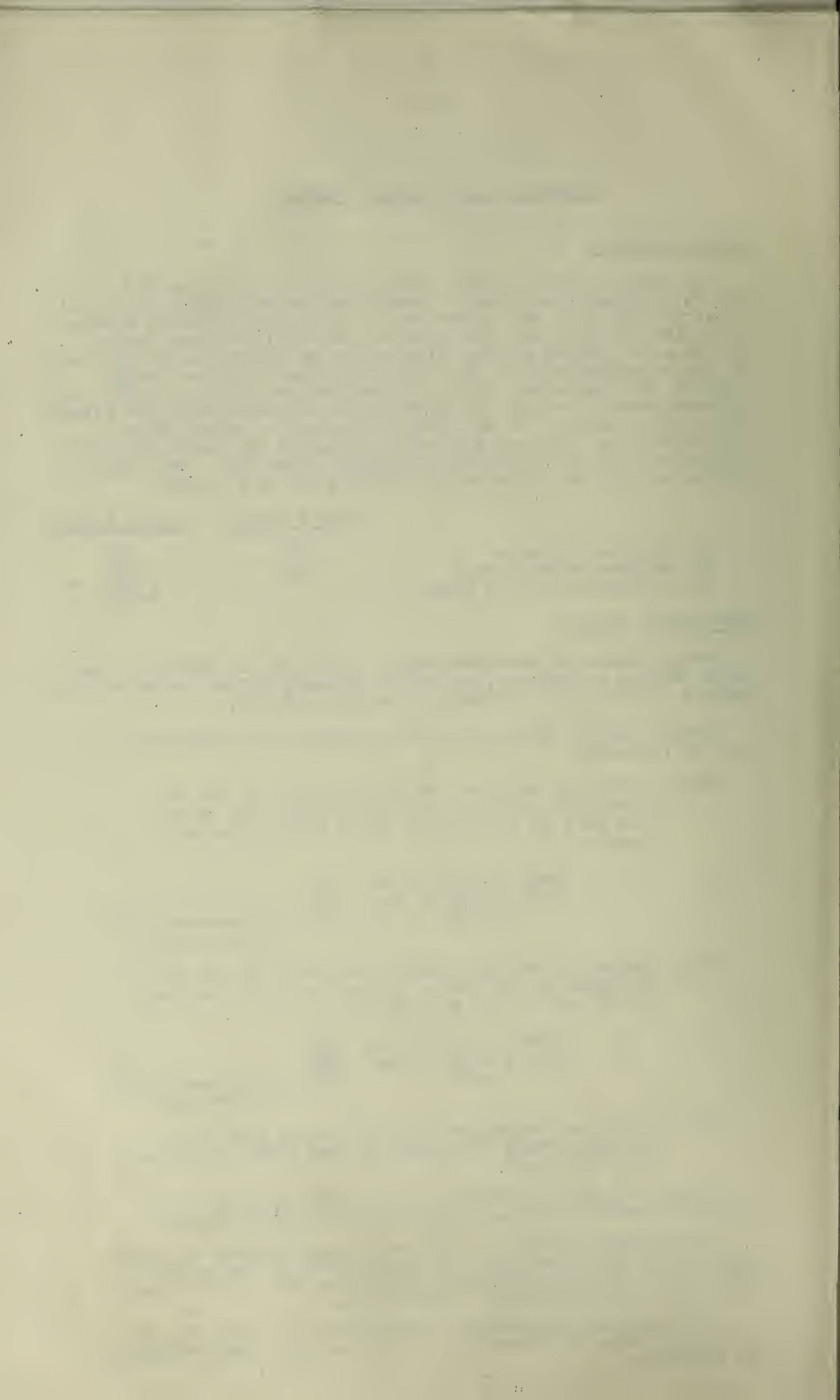
Under 1 year of age	359	
Over 1 year of age	219	
Total	578,	a decrease of 19 on last year.

Total number of attendances at the Centre made by children under five years of age, 6,400, 1,265 more than last year.

Thanks are due to the Ladies' Voluntary Committee for valuable services rendered at the Centre during the year.

An Ante-natal clinic is held weekly, and during the year under review 394 expectant mothers attended at the clinic. Although no separate post-natal clinic has been established, cases were given post-natal examination.

The following proprietary preparations are available at cost price (free in necessitous cases) to all women attending the clinics:-



Ostermilk (Nos. 1 and 2)	Glucodin
Humanised Trufood	Bemax
Cow and Gate	Virol
Lactogol	Virolax
Ovaltine	Farex
	Adexolin

The following are distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets
 Ferrous Sulphate tablets
 Viteolin tablets

Maternity

During the year, 32 women were sent to the Maternity Hospital at Leeds, 10 to Hazlewood Castle Maternity Home, 29 to Walton Hall Maternity Home and 2 to the County Institution, Wakefield; but in the big majority of normal cases domiciliary arrangements were made. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, and details of births notified by the local midwives and others are forwarded weekly to that Authority.

The following analysis of notifications of birth received during 1946, adjusted by transferred notifications, indicates how the various maternity services and institutions were used.

1. No. of births occurring in the Borough:

(a) Pontefract residents:

Domiciliary cases -

Notified by Doctors	2
Notified by Midwives	305

Institutional cases -

Pontefract Nursing Home	59
County Institution Pontefract	7
General Infirmary Pontefract	1

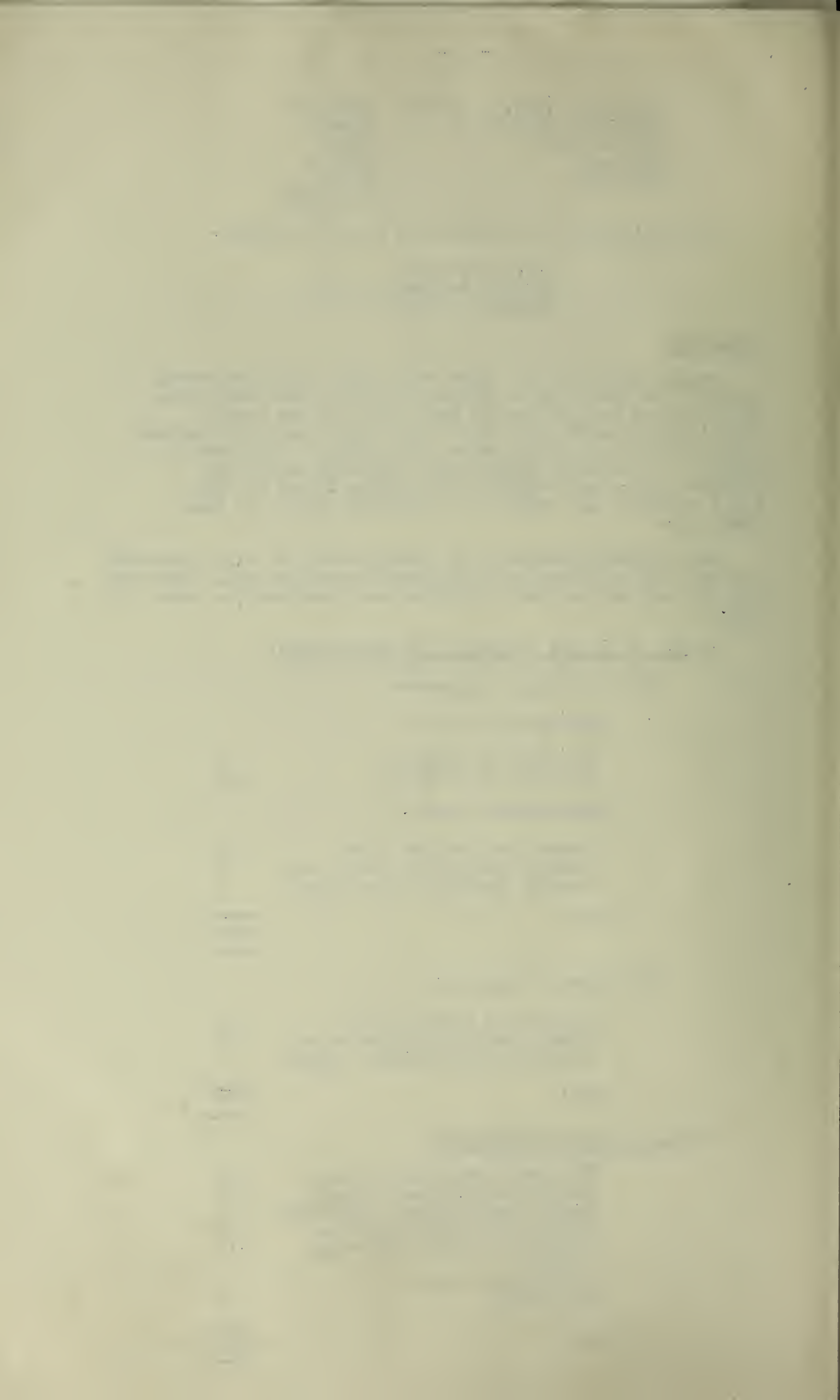
Total	<u>374</u>
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(b) Outward transfers:

Pontefract Nursing Home	69
County Institution Pontefract	26
Relations (domiciliary cases)	3
Total	<u>98</u>

2. No. of inward transfers:

Maternity Hospital at Leeds	32
Castleford Maternity Home	33
County Institution, Wakefield	2
Walton Hall Maternity Home	29
Hazlewood Castle Maternity Home	10
Four Gables Leeds	1
Relations	1
Total	<u>108</u>



Nursery Provision for Children under 5.

On the closure of the Beechwood Residential Nursery in January and the Baghill Day Nursery in April, special steps were taken by the Council to supplement the Nursery Classes, which were then the only nursery provision in the Borough.

The following Schemes were put in operation in May, 1946:-

1. Registered Guardians

At the close of the year there were 5 daily guardians on the register. Despite considerable publicity only one person took advantage of the Scheme.

2. Sitters-in

This is a voluntary scheme, and although several people were put in touch with sitters-in registered with the Council, little is known of the extent to which the Service was used, for, after introductions had been made, any further arrangements were made direct by parent and sitters-in.

3. Afternoon Creche

This is held at Beechwood Bungalow. There were two sessions each week, and the average attendance per session was 8. Provision is made for toddlers only.

Illegitimate Children

The Council gave consideration to Circular 2866, and made arrangements for the social work in this connection to be done by the senior health visitor in co-operation with the women welfare officers of the County Welfare Department.

Care of Premature Infants

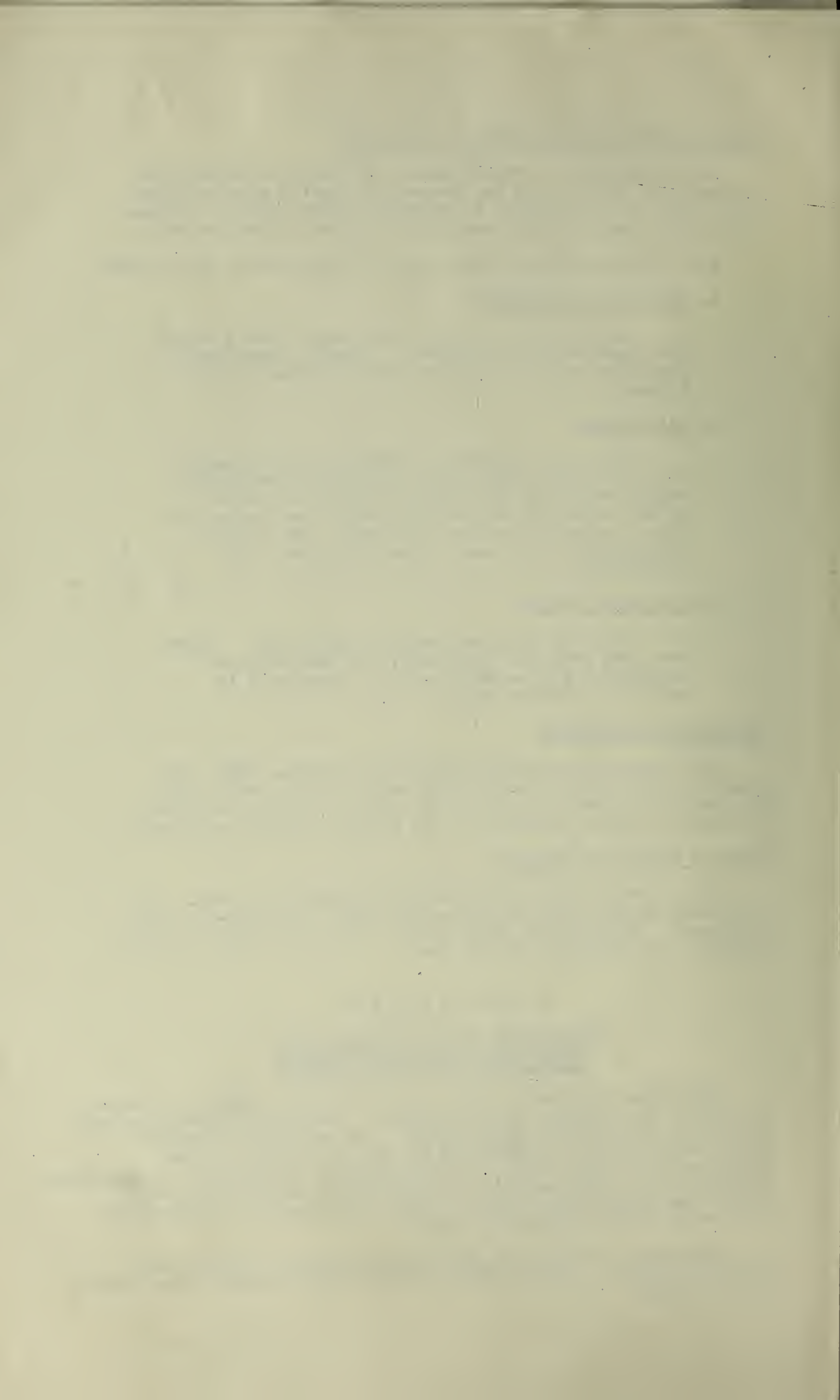
23 premature babies were notified during the year. In each case special investigation was made, and help given as required. In hospital cases there was close liason between Hospital and Welfare Authorities.

P A R T T H R E E

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

290 cases of disease were notified during 1946, a decrease of 609 on the previous year's figure. The high figure for 1945 was due to an epidemic of measles: 514 cases were notified during that year, as against 38 in the year under review. Decreases were also shown in scarlet fever, diphtheria, erysipelas, chickenpox and tuberculosis. Paratyphoid and cerebro-spinal fever were absent this year: there had been two notifications of each of these diseases in 1945.

Increases occurred in pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia and whooping cough: the incidence of the latter disease was double that of 1945.



An interesting feature has again arisen in connection with diphtheria. There were 4 cases during the year, and all were adults (ages: 21, 25, 26 and 34). The absence of cases in children can, of course, only be due to immunisation. During the year under review 355 children under 5 and 65 over 5 years received a full course of primary immunisation in the Borough. Also, 41 children were given a reinforcing injection.

The following Table gives particulars of incidence, deaths, and immunisation position since 1942. The big percentage increases in columns 4 and 5 are partially accounted for by the use of a revised child-population in the computation of the percentages. On the data used in the previous year the figures would have been 49.9 and 70.0 respectively.

Table IV

Year	No. of cases of diphtheria	No. of deaths due to diphtheria	No. of child population immunised against diphtheria	
			Under 5 years	Over 5 years
1942	55	3	11.9	48.6
1943	52	2	30.5	74.4
1944	20	1	29.1	78.7
1945	5	0	42.0	68.7
1946	4	1 (adult)	66.3	76.2

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) among the civilian population.

Table V

Diseases	Total notified cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet fever	34	34	0
Diphtheria	4	4	1
Pneumonia, acute	29	0	4
Puerperal pyrexia	9	5	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	5	1	0
Erysipelas	7	0	1
Chickenpox	76	0	0
Measles	38	0	0
Whooping cough	136	0	1

TUBERCULOSIS

In the following table new cases and mortality are classified.

Table VI

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	-	1	-		-	-		-
5 and under 15	-	1	-		-	-		-
15 and under 25	2	4	2		1	2		-
25 and under 35	7	2	-		1	-		1
35 and under 45	3	-	-		2	1		-
45 and under 55	3	-	-		1	1		-
55 and under 65	2	-	-		-	-		-
65 and over	1	-	-		-	-		-
Totals	18	8	2	-	5	4	-	1

The following table summarises particulars contained in the register of tuberculous persons.

Table VII

Number of cases in Register	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total in Register
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At the commencement of 1946	75	46	34	28	183
Notified under Regulations of 1930 for the first time during 1946	18	8	2	-	28
Removed during 1946	16	6	5	3	30
At the end of 1946	77	48	31	25	181

The reasons for removal of cases from the register are given in the following table.

Table VIII

Entries relating to -	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Persons who have died	5	4	1	1	11
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered	9	2	4	2	17
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district	2	-	-	-	2
Totals	16	6	5	3	30

Scabies

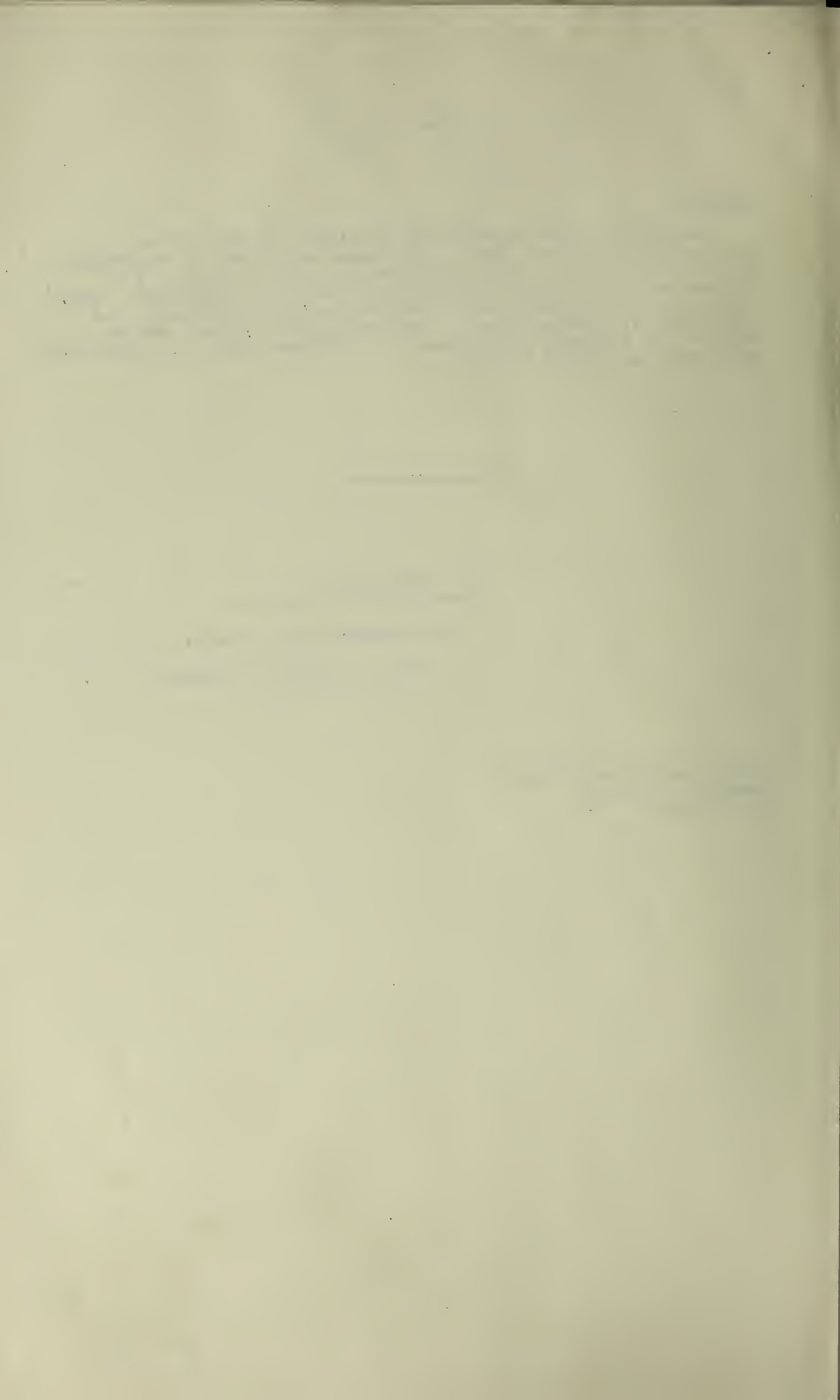
Facilities for the out-patient treatment of scabies are provided at the School Clinic, Headlands Road, and at the Baghill Isolation Hospital. This provision has proved adequate for dealing with all cases occurring among women and children. Adult males are normally advised to have domiciliary treatment; but where such is likely to prove inadequate, the patient can be admitted to a County Institution in accordance with an arrangement made with the County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W.T. HESSEL, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Pontefract.



REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1946.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1946: an Interim Report from which much of the statistical information normally given has been omitted.

P A R T O N E

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply

A sufficient and constant supply of wholesome water was distributed throughout the district by the Corporation during 1946. Thirty bacteriological examinations - ten from each source of supply - were made of the raw water, and all were reported upon as satisfactory. Twenty samples of chlorinated water going into supply were examined with equally good results.

Samples were also submitted to chemical analysis, and the following report is typical of samples taken from the mixed supply:

		<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Total solids	..	34.0
Chlorine	..	2.5
Nitrite	..	Nil
Nitrate	..	0.28
Free ammonia	..	0.002
Albuminoid ammonia	..	0.002
Poisonous metals	..	Nil
Total hardness	..	22.2

These chemical data indicate a water of good organic quality. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action. pH values have ranged between 7.0 and 7.6.

The water from the Tanshelf Works, although organically satisfactory, is very hard, and even the comparatively small quantities which are used to augment the main sources of supply, have an appreciable effect on the mixed supply. It is anticipated that this auxiliary source will be disused when the Corporation's plans for obtaining additional supplies are realised.

Only one house in the Borough is not connected to the public supply. These premises are well away from the Corporation's main, and are served by a private well.

Only twelve houses in the Borough are served by outside stand-pipes. These properties were scheduled in 1939 for clearance under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, but clearance was held up on account of the war. The position may be tabulated as follows:

	<u>No. of dwellinghouses</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>
(1) Supplied from public main:		
(a) Direct to houses	5,505	21,000
(b) By means of stand-pipes	12	37
(2) Supplied from private source	1	3

Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage

All built-up areas in the Borough are sewered, there being only 35 houses which are not connected to sewers. Almost all houses are on the water-carriage system: records indicate that there are now only 20 houses on the conservancy system. These will be abolished as circumstances allow. The 51 dry ashpits in the Borough at the beginning of the year were abolished during the year.

A considerable amount of drainage work of an urgent nature has been done; although plans for many desirable but less urgent improvements had to be postponed until a more favourable time.

Nuisances, and Control of Regulated Trades

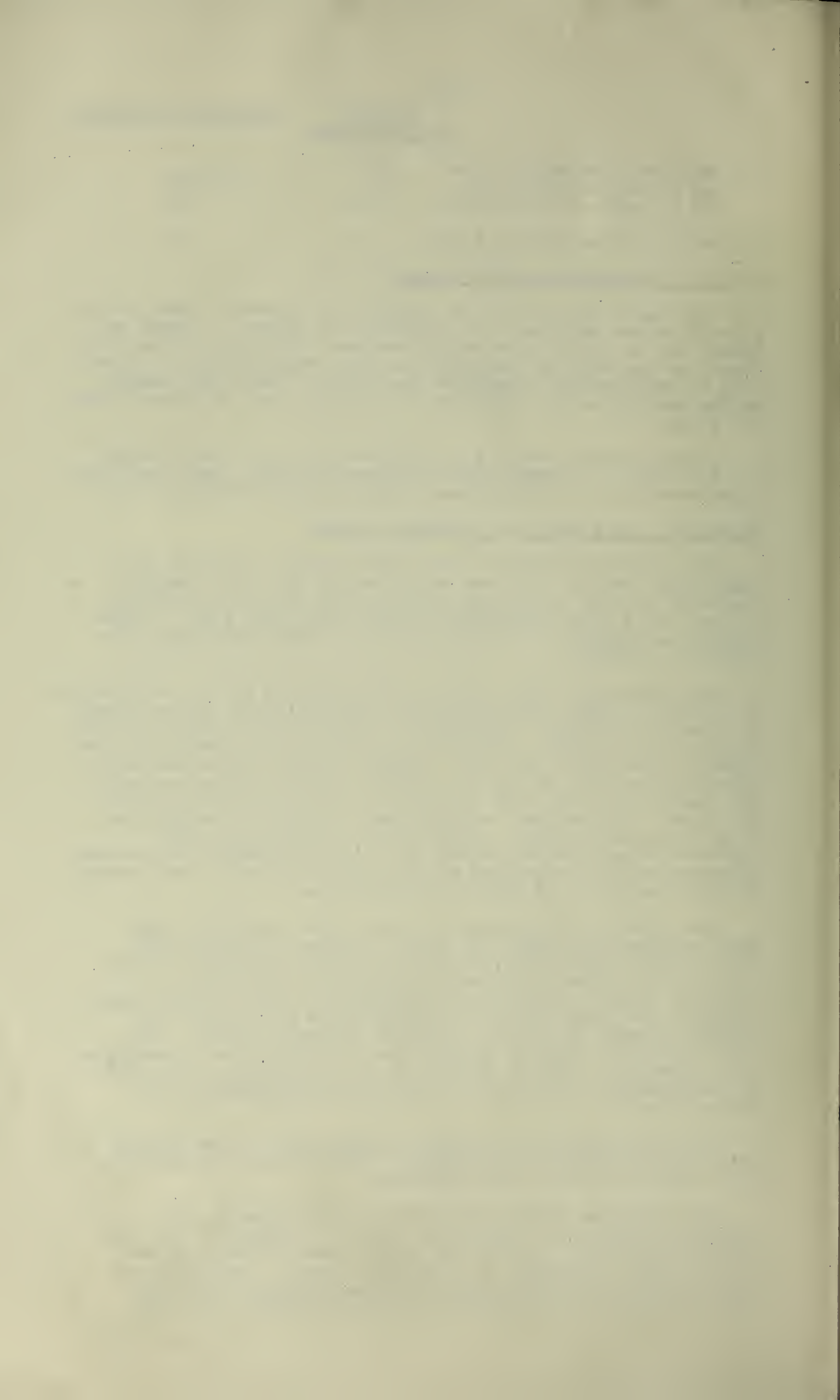
131 statutory nuisances were found during the year, and 3 outstanding from the previous year brought the total needing abatement to 134: 125 were abated as the result of informal action, and 9 were outstanding at the end of the year. These figures are exclusive of housing defects dealt with under the Housing Act 1936.

Smoke nuisances have occurred from time to time. In addition to numerous casual observations and inspections of boiler plant, 87 formal thirty-minute observations were made; and in 21 cases cautions were issued. Mechanical stoking was introduced at one factory during the year, but a change over to electrical power which was expected at another factory was held up on account of the inability of the firm concerned to obtain delivery of the new plant. At another factory, where mechanical stoking had been introduced in 1944, the benefits accruing from this improvement were largely offset by a 'grit nuisance' which arose by reason of the de-grading of the fuel supplied to the factory, necessitated by the National fuel shortage.

The Council are interested in the wider aspects of the smoke problem, and under the powers granted by section 105 of the Public Health Act, 1936, have taken part in investigations into problems relating to atmospheric pollution. A deposit gauge was operated throughout the year, and in March apparatus was installed for the estimation of atmospheric sulphur dioxide by the lead peroxide exposure method. The data gathered to date is insufficient to permit the presentation of a reasonably reliable picture of the atmospheric conditions in the District, and will be tabulated and discussed in a future report.

There is now only one common lodging-house in the Borough with accommodation for 21 persons: this is used to capacity. The business has been well conducted.

The offensive trades established in the Borough were inspected regularly. They were operated throughout the year without nuisance. One licence is in force authorising the use of certain premises as a knacker's yard. Conditions at these premises have been far from satisfactory, but at the time of writing considerable improvement is being effected.



Factories

The term 'factory' is comprehensive, and includes premises large and small where articles are made, altered, or repaired for purposes of gain. There are 95 such premises in the Borough, at 76 of which mechanical power is employed. 52 inspections were made during the year. Staffing difficulties continued to be responsible for deterioration in the standard of cleanliness usual to some premises; but in very few instances was there failure to maintain the essential minimum of cleanliness. Factories in which food is handled were also inspected under section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The means of escape in case of fire were inspected at the premises to which section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, applies and were found to be satisfactory and in accordance with the Certificates granted by the Council. One new Certificate was granted.

Rodent Control

The Corporation accepted delegation of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, a quarter of a century ago, but it was not until 1940 that a full-time rodent operative was employed. During 1946 two operatives were employed to search for and to destroy rats - the prevention of food wastage being of particular importance at this time - and the following Table gives particulars of the work done:

Table I. Surface Infestations

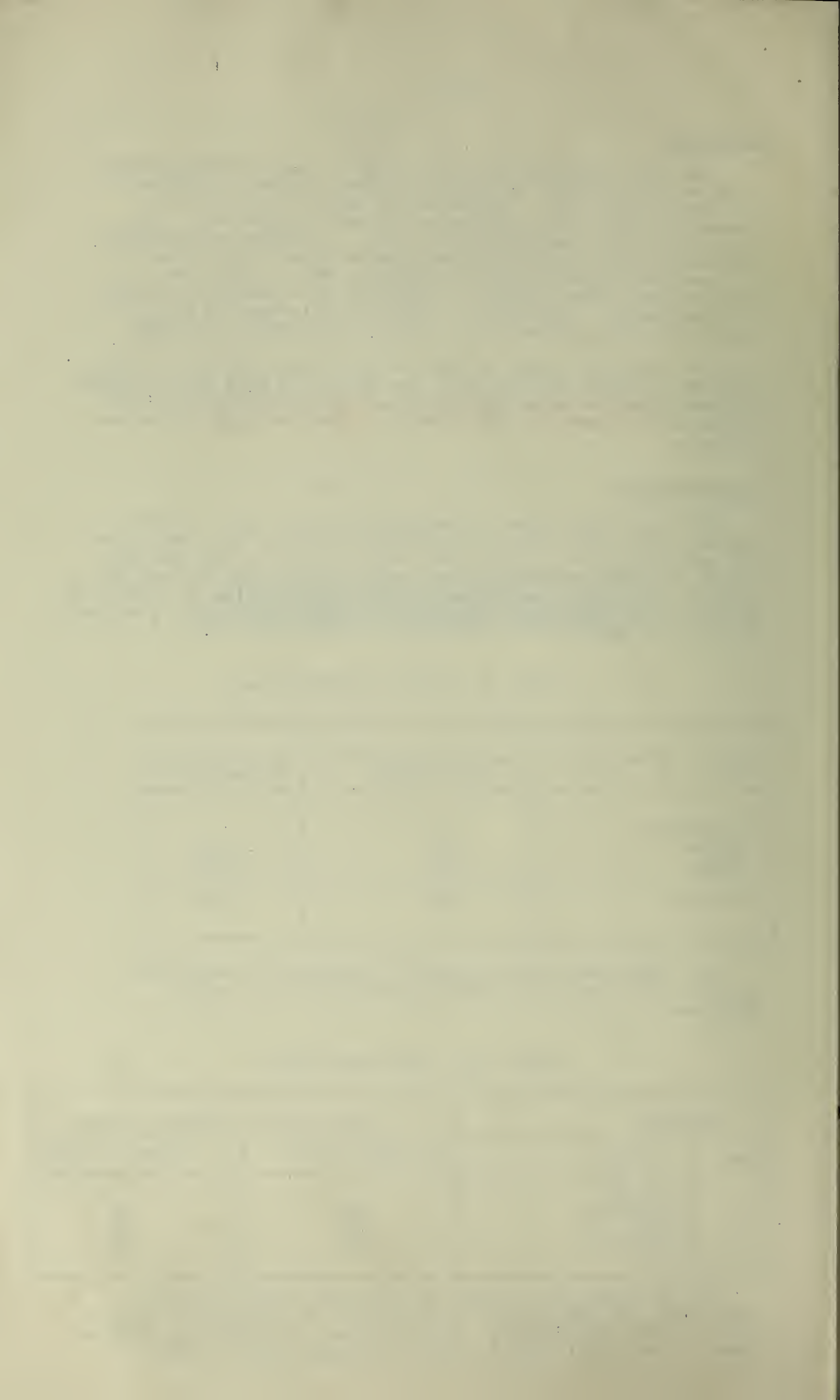
Type of Infestation	No. of Infestations dealt with	No. of rats accounted for
Reservoir	0	-
Major	24	4,081
Minor	163	3,835
Totals	187	7,916

The sewers were given regular 'maintenance' treatments, and the following Table gives particulars of the results obtained:

Table II. Sewer Treatments

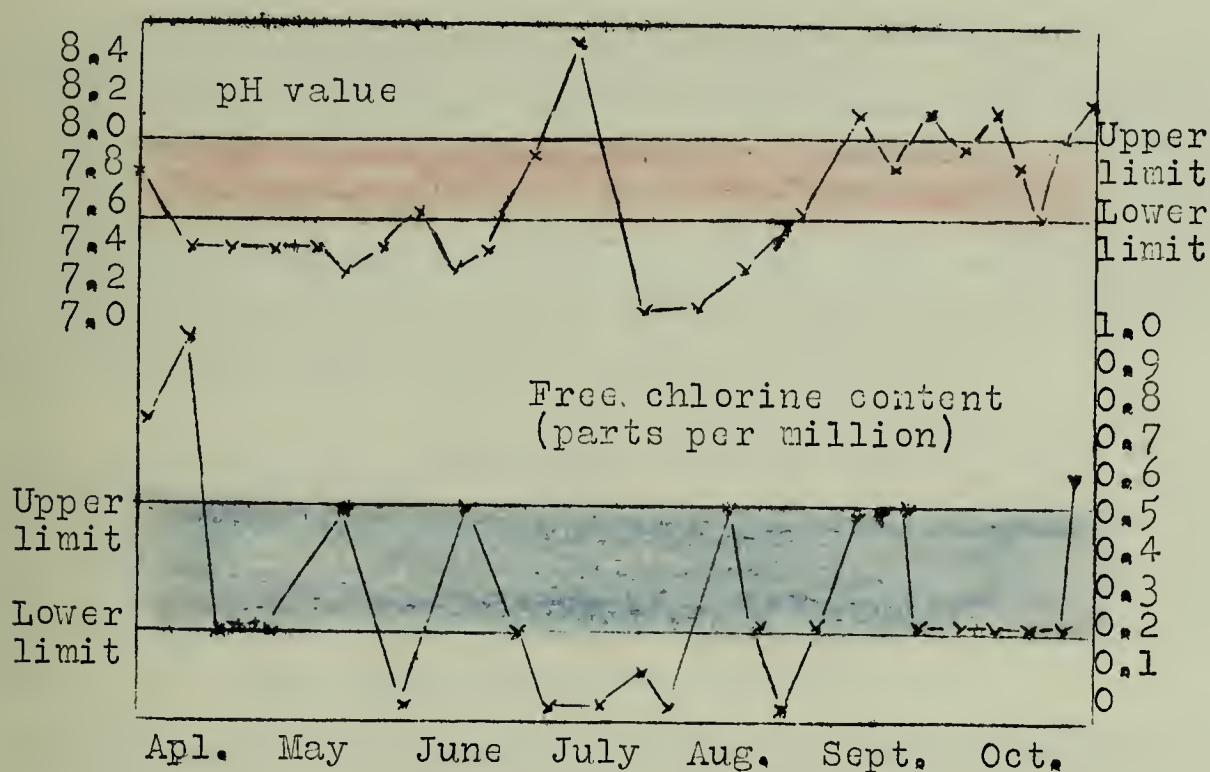
Treatment		Percentage of 'Prebait takes'	
No.	Date	Total takes	Complete takes
3	1946 February	17%	7%
4	June	15%	2%
5	December	11%	6%

On the standards set down in Ministry of Food Circular N.S. No. 6, the infestation in the sewers is 'limited in extent' and of 'small intensity'. These figures show gradual improvement. The 'total takes' figure in January 1945 was 29%



Swimming Baths. Sanitary Condition of Water.

Throughout the swimming season bacteriological control of the water in the Public Baths has been maintained, and with two exceptions samples taken have conformed to the highest standard of organic purity. The two unsatisfactory samples were taken at times when the chlorination plant was out of action. Weekly samples were also submitted to chemical examination for 'free chlorine content' and 'pH value', and the results are given by the following graph:



Sampling period: 1946.

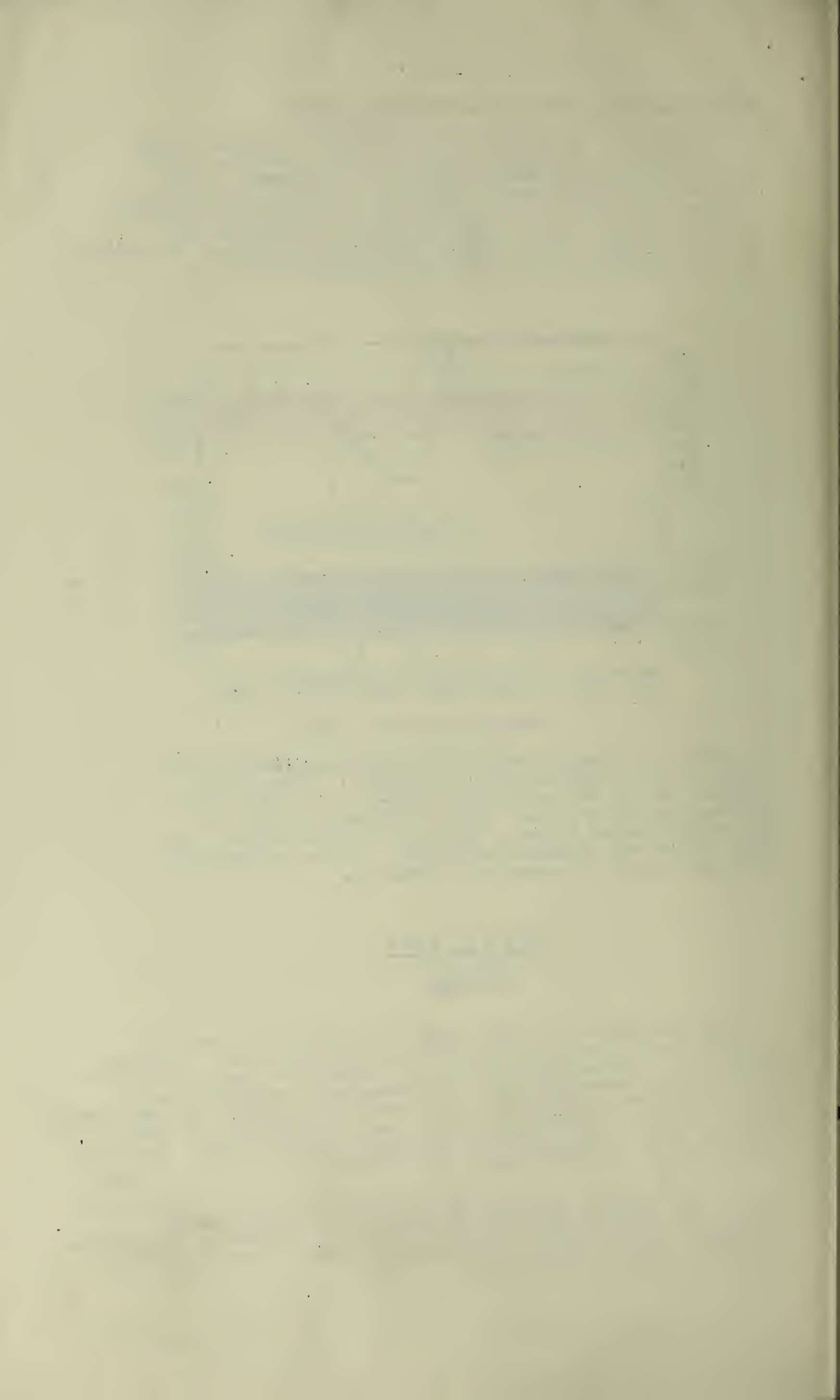
36% of the samples taken for 'free chlorine content' failed to reach the Ministry's standard: this is a decrease of 11% on last year's figure; but might still be considered too high. 64% of the samples taken for 'pH value' failed to reach the prescribed standard: the same figure was recorded last year. I have recommended that the dosing apparatus be overhauled.

P A R T T W O

HOUSING

The housing of the inhabitants is probably the greatest problem facing the Corporation at the present time. In 1939 there was a sufficiency of houses: during the period 1932 - 39 an average of some 200 houses had been built annually, and a shortage of 4-and 5-bedroom type houses revealed by the Overcrowding Survey had been adjusted in 1938. At the beginning of 1946, however, due to the suspension of house building during the war, a shortage of some 800 houses was estimated.

House building was recommenced during the year under review, and by the close of the year 60 temporary and 29 permanent houses had been completed, 23 of the latter by private enterprise. A further 326 were under construction: 282 by the Corporation and 44 by private enterprise.



This beginning had been awaited - more or less impatiently - by some 700 families who had never enjoyed the sole occupation of a house, and by many others needing more accommodation; and the Council was presented with the difficult problem of deciding the order in which applicants should be granted tenancies. It was recognised that need was the only factor which could properly be taken into consideration, and, working on this basis, a Scheme for the Selection of Tenants was prepared. From 1st October each applicant's need was carefully measured by comparison with agreed standards, and he was classified accordingly. In my opinion a fairer method would be difficult to find.

By the end of the year, 42 of the 124 known cases of 'statutory overcrowding' had been rehoused. When all such cases have been dealt with there will still be some 200 families which, although not coming within the 'statutory overcrowded' class, are obviously short of bedroom accommodation judged on reasonable standards of decency: such cases will be given their due priority. It may be said, however, that although the abatement of overcrowding must receive priority, a separate house for each family desiring it is the Council's aim, and energetic endeavours are being made by them to that end.

The condition of existing privately-owned house property presents many problems. There are some 200 houses which should be demolished as soon as circumstances permit. In the present acute housing shortage there is reluctance to close houses, but in a few cases conditions were so poor that the Corporation asked owners to undertake not to relet the property when it became vacant. 20 such undertakings were given.

Throughout the year great difficulty was experienced in securing compliance with notices requiring repair work, despite the fact that no work was asked for unless the defective conditions constituted a statutory nuisance, were prejudicial to health, or were otherwise in need of urgent attention. Much of the difficulty was due to the inability of contractors to obtain building materials and components for this class of work, and the problem became more acute as materials were increasingly diverted to new housing. A Priority Scheme was introduced under Ministry of Health Circular 100/46, providing for the supply of materials for repair work where -

- (a) A sanitary break down endangered health;
- (b) Urgent structural repairs were necessary to avoid collapse; or
- (c) The work was required by statutory notice;

but builders seemed reluctant to 'fill up more forms' and the Scheme was not widely used. The few certificates that were issued were honoured by builders' merchants when they had the materials.

Despite the difficulties arising from shortage of materials and labour many housing improvements were effected. It will not, however, be possible to recommence the routine inspection of houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, and the systematic street-by-street improvement of dwellinghouse property until the difficulties referred to have been resolved.

In cases of verminous infestation two methods were used: in serious cases disinfection was effected by hydrogen cyanide, and in mild cases by 'D.D.T.' preparations. Infested furniture was treated with hydrogen cyanide before removal to Corporation houses.

P A R T T H R E E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Supply

The Ministry of Food continued to use the Abattoir at Newtown as a centre for the preparation of meat for distribution to retailers in the Borough and surrounding districts, covering a population of some 50,000. The whole of the meat slaughtered at the abattoir was inspected by Officers of the Department.

The numbers of carcasses examined during the year were:-

Beasts	..	2,210
Calves	..	1,699
Sheep	..	7,390
Pigs	..	225

the total number being 11,524

The numbers of carcasses found to be unfit for human consumption were:-

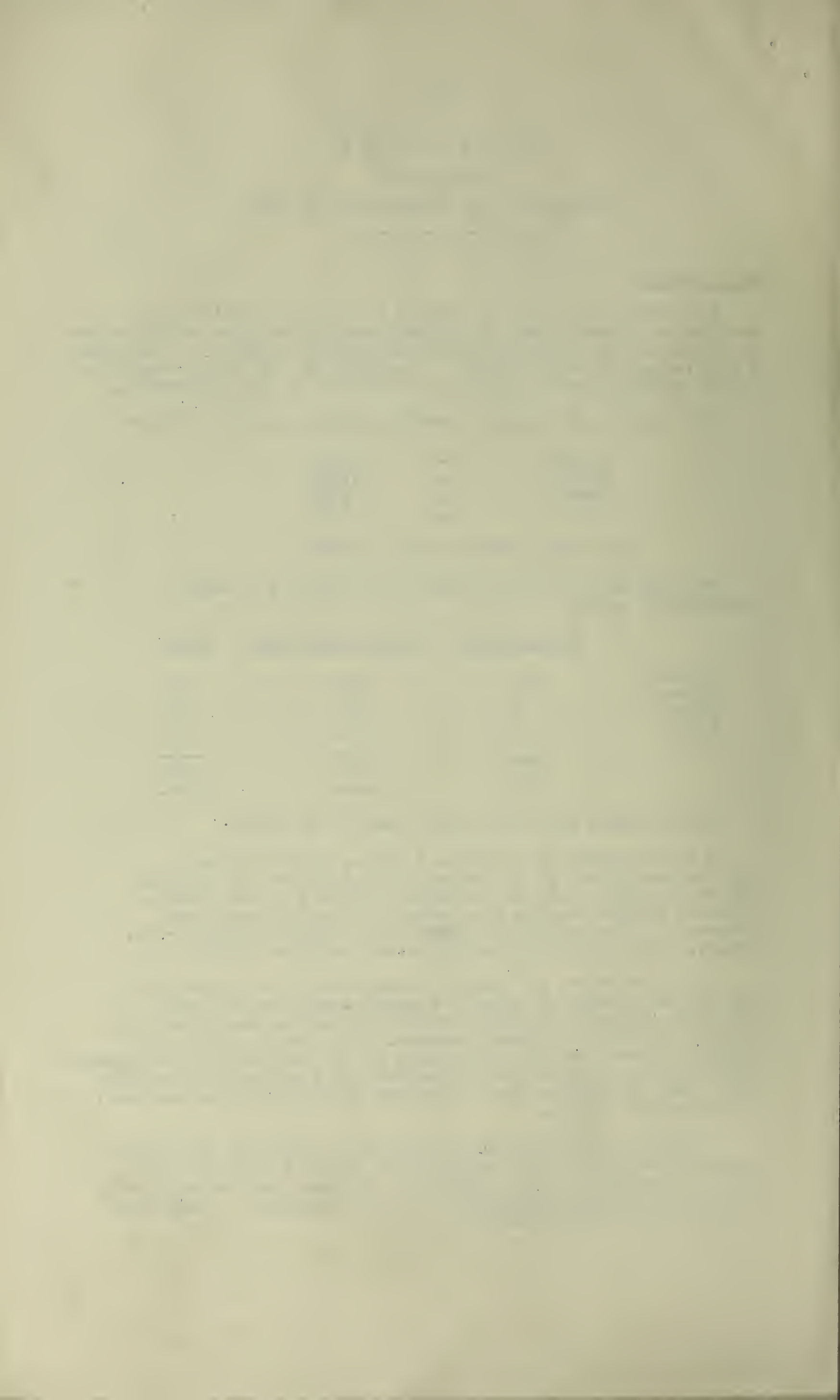
	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Other conditions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beasts	54	10	64
Calves	1	7	8
Sheep	-	22	22
Pigs	5	3	8
	<u>60</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>102</u>

2,427 organs and parts were found to be unfit.

A total weight of 32 tons, 3 qtrs., 21 lbs of meat was condemned, and it is estimated that 39% of the cattle, 20% of the pigs, 1.6% of the sheep and 0.7% of the calves examined showed lesions of disease. The condemnations classified above as 'Other Conditions' included septicaemia, dropsy, fever, pyaemia, jaundice, and medicine taint.

The advantages of central slaughtering, as opposed to the pre-war system of private slaughtering, are now well established, and it would be a retrograde step to allow again the use of private slaughterhouses. The Corporation are prepared, given certain assurances by the Ministerial Departments concerned, to erect a Public Abattoir at the earliest possible date; but the matter is in abeyance awaiting the announcement of Government policy.

Transport and handling of meat were given due attention. Occasional violations of articles 21 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 occurred; informal action was taken, and the conditions complained of were rectified. Conditions generally were satisfactory.



Milk Supply

Milk produced locally forms a very small proportion of the total quantity of milk retailed in the Borough. At the present time some 150 dairying cattle are kept, and the bulk of our milk supply comes from sources considerable distances away. The number of registered producers in the area is 15; there are 10 wholesale traders and 15 retailers. The 19 cowsheds have been inspected at intervals and, with one exception conditions, generally, were satisfactory. In one case the producer ceased production rather than carry out the extensive structural improvements required. Two producers hold 'Accredited' Licences and a high standard of cleanliness was maintained at these premises. Samples from each farm in the Borough have been submitted to the Methylene Blue Test with satisfactory results.

One licence is in force authorising the use of the designation 'Pasteurised' in relation to milk treated by a pasteurising process at premises in the Borough. The plant, which is of the High-Temperature-Short-Time type, was installed in May, and satisfies the conditions prescribed by the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. By the end of the year 27 samples of the milk had been submitted to the phosphatase test, and in each case the milk was shown to have been adequately heat-treated. A similar number of samples was submitted to the methylene blue test, and reported upon as satisfactory, showing the pasteurised milk to be clean and of good keeping quality.

Ice Cream

An investigation into the conditions under which ice-cream was being manufactured and sold in the Borough was made during the summer months. Of the 25 premises registered by the Council in 1939 for one or both of these purposes, only 12 were being used in 1946. Samples of ice-cream were submitted to bacteriological examination for pathogenic organisms and coliform bacilli. 40% reached the standard of 'Accredited' milk on first being sampled; and on second sampling the figure rose to 94%.

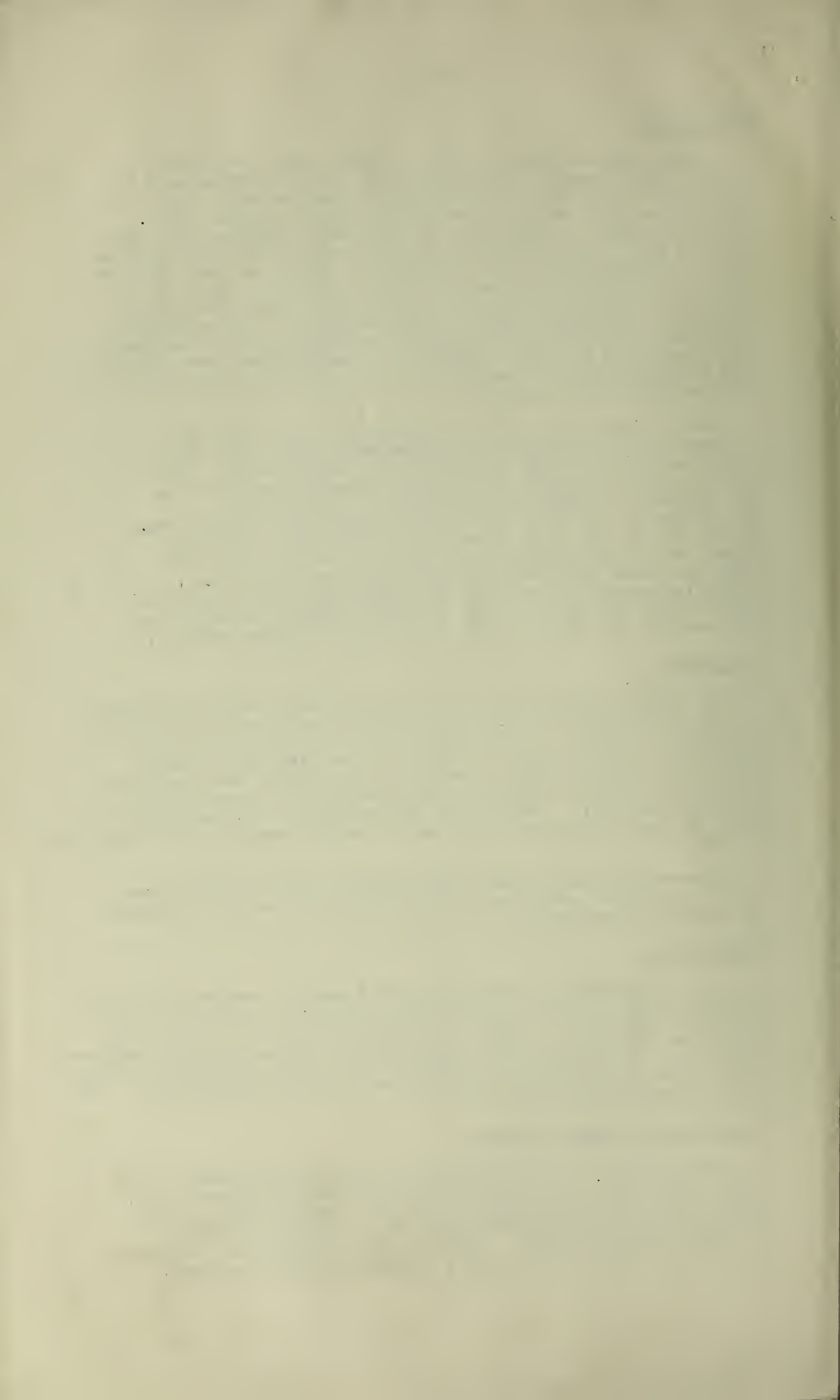
Ice-cream manufacturers and retailers were visited from time to time and were circularised asking for a high standard of personal cleanliness.

Other Foods

The continued need to prevent food wastage resulted in much activity in the inspection of 'other foods'. Traders now call in your Inspectors to examine food which prior to the war they would have rejected without inspection. Also, regarding rationed goods, the retailer or wholesaler requires the certificate of the local authority before he can dispose of unfit foodstuffs: this caused considerable extra work.

Supervision of Food Premises

Food factories, shops and warehouses were inspected during the year; any contraventions of Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Shops Act, 1934, Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, were noted, and remedial measures taken. Although many staffs were depleted the general condition of food premises was satisfactory.



Throughout the year under review the Department was working one technical officer below pre-war Establishment, due to the general shortage of Sanitary Inspectors; and much routine work had to be curtailed on that account. The Council have approved a post-war Establishment of Chief Sanitary Inspector, two Additional Sanitary Inspectors, one Pupil Sanitary Inspector and two clerks; and it is anticipated that the full Establishment will be employed before the next Annual Report is presented.

Yours faithfully,

L. WALSH, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
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